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ABSTRACT

School media centers are at a critical juncture. Over the next decade, schools will undergo fundamental technical, economic, societal, instructional and administrative changes. Current uses of computers in education include drill and practice, word processing, simulation exercises, database management, and computer-based graphics. When the use of computers becomes more thoroughly integrated into classrooms, it will pave the way for newer educational strategies such as resource-based teaching, collaboration, and online instruction. All of these technology-driven educational changes will require a greater need for the services of a school library media specialist (SLMS). The connection between the growing world of information and the student requires a skilled interpreter, consultant, instructor, and gatherer of information. Employment, educational, social and behavioral, instructional, and organizational and managerial trends are examined with respect to the school library media center and specialist. With the new technologies, many roles of the SMLS will take on greater importance: management of technological reference and information services, collection development with evaluation in order to justify funding. (Contains 174 references as well as chapter notes.) (MAS)

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